


Sunderland Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1954

R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

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SUNDERLAND
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Council Offices.

1, The Esplanade,
Sunderland.

Officials :

Medical Officer of Health : R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S.,
D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector : M. B. H. CHURCHILL,
M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector : W. WOODS, M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Health Department : MISS W. M. YOUNG.

Junior Clerk : MRS. C. CARR.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Sunderland Rural District Council.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hereby submit my fourteenth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your district, together with the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. M. B. H. Churchill.

The following are the main features of the vital statistics. The estimated population of 26,000 shows an increase of 230 over the previous year. The increase of births over deaths was 136, the Live Birth Rate was 19.7 per thousand of the estimated population, and the Still-Birth Rate 0.46 per thousand. There were 39 more deaths this year than the previous year. The vast majority of deaths were people over the age of 65. Deaths from Cancer were 51.; Coronary Disease, Angina and other Heart Disease 104—an increase of 31 over the previous year.

The general health of the district's population during 1954 was of a reasonably high standard; no serious outbreaks of infectious disease occurred. The number of infectious diseases notified was 578 as against 624 the previous year. Two cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were notified and no cases of Diphtheria; the latter is almost unheard of in the district now, undoubtedly due to the excellent response to diphtheria immunisation.

As before, a close liaison between infectious diseases and the housing problem was maintained.

Survey of the Over 60's.

In 1952, my colleagues and myself conceived the idea of undertaking, in a circumscribed area, a thorough physical examination of the men and women over 60 years of age to see how healthy they were or what diseases and disabilities they suffered from. There have been a number of surveys of old people, but none that we knew of had attempted full medical examinations;

so that accurate information about the health of the people over 60 was lacking. The villages of Tunstall and Silksworth in my area were chosen as typical of a middle and working class urban district. The population was 7,500, the density of houses and persons per acre slightly better than average, and in other respects such as the infectious disease rates and death rates the area was about average. The workers are employed mostly in the coal-mining and shipping industries and small shops.

Arranging the Medical Examinations.

The names and addresses of all people over 60 years of age were obtained by us, using every source of information possible such as the voting lists, all organisations and clubs, the churches, welfare officers and the medical practitioners. The complete list contained 550 names or 7.3 per cent of the population, which is slightly less than in comparable areas of England and Wales.

By courtesy of the consulting physician, Dr. O. Olbrich, the facilities for medical examination in the department of geriatrics at the Sunderland General Hospital were placed at my disposal. We arranged for about 60 people from the list to be invited each week to attend the hospital. About half of them accepted; but some, perhaps feeling quite well and not in need of medical attention, some perhaps fearing something being found out, some saying they did not wish to tempt providence, some recently attended by their own doctors or already attending hospital, and some ill in bed—and for other reasons—were reluctant to attend. I visited most of them and persuaded a number to come. Some private car owners, including the Red Cross, volunteered to provide transport. The number finally persuaded to attend was 238 out of the original 550.

The medical examinations were very thorough indeed, covering every system of the body and included X-rays and laboratory tests. The findings were entered on the hospital records.

Factor Analysis.

My friend Dr. J. Maddison, M.D., M.O.H., Twickenham, agreed to do the statistical work, and it was decided to do a factor analysis of the findings to see if they revealed any factors. This procedure is used to test if there are any common influences which can account for the differences amongst the people examined; it also serves as a means of classifying them. We selected certain information from the clinical records such as sex, age, haemoglobin level, blood pressure, and the diseases found. Some persons had two diseases, some three, and a few four. We divided these details into 42 sub-classes with 1200 squares containing 1750 sums in each. We then made up a table showing how many people fell into each sub-class. This table constitutes the first step in the analysis of the factors.

The whole analysis is a complicated mathematical procedure. It took many hours of work at odd times. One part required the use of Hollerith punch-card and sorting machinery and the use of the electronic calculator.

By reason of the friendship existing between the Twickenham Borough Council and the National Physical Laboratory, Dr. Maddison was afforded the very great courtesy of having the assistance of the staff of the Mathematics Division, who helped with the punching, sorting and the electronic calculations. Without this assistance the procedure could not have been tackled at all and we should have had to be content with a much less accurate method. I think the results proved the effort to be well worth while.

The factor analysis revealed four factors or common influences :—

Factor 1—Healthiness. The influence operating on this group kept them healthy. They were mostly men aged 60 to 64 and were completely free from disease. Their haemoglobin levels were high and their blood pressures low.

Factor 2—Infection and Anaemia. In this group there were both men and women aged 70-74. Their haemoglobin was low, their blood pressures rising. They suffered from bronchitis and other disease of the chest, and anaemia—sometimes quite severe. It is quite likely that these people had a deficiency of iron in their diet and possibly of other trace elements like boron, manganese, molybdenum, copper, etc., and possibly also some deficiency of protein; because there is reason to believe that deficiencies such as these render living animals and plants susceptible not only to deficiency diseases but also to infection.

Factor 3—Obesity, Hypertension and Multiple Disabilities. This group was made up mainly of women aged 65-79. Their haemoglobin was slightly below normal and their blood pressure moderately high. The most important finding was obesity; this is the group of fat old women with a rising blood pressure. They also have multiple illnesses and disabilities, the most frequent being uterine prolapse, diabetes, asthma, myxoedema and osteo-arthritis.

These women may well have the same deficiencies of diet as in Factor 2, but they have also the rising blood pressure. A possible cause for this is deficiency of choline, a substance found in egg yolk. In working-class households it is common for the women to deny themselves the expensive protein and protective foods, which usually go to the men; the women instead live mostly on starchy foods, especially bread and margarine and jam, or bread and dripping. They tend to put on weight in the 30's, getting fatter and fatter as they get older; some even reach 18 stones in weight.

Factor 4—Malignant Hypertension. This group have severe high blood pressure; with this go enlargement and failure of the heart, and angina. It is associated with obesity but not always, for there are people with high blood pressure who are not obese.

The Nature of the Factors.

It is curious and interesting that the four factors are closely related to blood pressure, the outlook becoming worse as the blood pressure rises. In round figures, about one-fifth of the over 60's are healthy and have low blood pressure; two-fifths have infections and anaemia and rising blood pressure; one-fifth have obesity, multiple disabilities and moderately high blood pressure. About half the people who are ill have got raised blood pressure of more or less severity. They die mostly from heart failure and stroke; this corresponds to the expected 50 per cent mortality rate (mostly old people) found in the table of causes of deaths. Blood pressure tends to rise with age especially in women, and as it rises the victims are afflicted with two, three or four illnesses or disabilities concurrently.

Prevention.

We need to investigate further the diets and habits of these people to see if we can determine more accurately the probable associations. In the meantime, two useful preventive measures would be to encourage by health education the consumption of a diet sufficient in protein and minerals, and to warn people of the dangers of obesity, and to show them how to slim and to control their weights.

Acknowledgements.

I acknowledge with grateful thanks the assistance we have received from many people during the course of this research, especially the staff of doctors, nurses and laboratory technicians in the Geriatric Department of the Sunderland General Hospital. Also Sir Edward Bullard, the Director of the National Physical Laboratory, for permission, and Dr. E. T. Goodwin, Mr. T. Vickers, Miss Rigg and the staff of the Mathematics Division for assistance, in punching cards and sorting, and the extraction of the latent roots and vectors of the matrix of correlations in the factor analysis.

The findings of the survey will be published in the British Journal of Social and Preventative Medicine.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support received from Members of the Council at all times during the past year.

REGINALD C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
June 1955.

STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	6,645
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1954	26,000
Number of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1954	7,950
Rateable Value	£120,755
Sum represented by penny rate	£466

Births and Birth-Rate.

The nett number of births in the district was 512.
The sex and legitimacy classification is shown thus:—

LIVE BIRTHS :

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	279	218)
			) 512
Illegitimate	8	7)

The birth-rate per thousand of the estimated population is 19.7, a slight increase over the previous year.

The Comparability Factor, issued in order to determine a more accurate birth-rate, is for the year 1954, 0.95; therefore, the Corrected Birth-Rate calculated therefrom is 18.7.

STILL-BIRTHS :

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	4	8)
			) 12
Illegitimate	—	—)

During the year there were 12 still-births in the district. The Still-Birth Rate of the population is 0.46 per thousand, an increase over the figure recorded in 1953, viz., 8 still-births, which gave a mortality rate of 0.31 per thousand total population.

Deaths and Death Rate.

The total number of deaths in the district during 1954 (corrected for inward and outward transfers, and including deaths from all causes and at all ages) was 376;

viz., 193 males and 183 females. The recorded death-rate being 14.5 per thousand of the estimated population.

The Comparability Factor for deaths is 1.12 and the Corrected Death-Rate calculated therefrom is 16.2 per thousand of the estimated population.

The following Table shows the variation in the birth and death-rates and estimated population during the preceding four years as compared with 1954 :—

Year.	Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
Sunderland R.D.			
1950	28,690	20.0 ^a	12.1 ^a
1951	25,610	20.9 ^a	13.5 ^a
1952	25,660	18.3 ^a	11.4 ^a
1953	25,770	19.3 ^a	14.6 ^a
1954	26,000	18.7 ^a	16.2 ^a

^a—Corrected Birth and Death Rates.

Infantile Mortality.

Twenty-two children died during 1954 before attaining the age of one year; sixteen of these under four weeks of age.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	15	5)	22
Illegitimate	2	—)	

The death-rate for infants under one year is shown according to the number of live births and legitimacy:—

Death Rate for all infants per thousand live births is 42.9.

The deaths were due to Birth Injuries, Bronchitis, Enteritis and Pneumonia.

Causes of Death in the Sunderland Rural District during 1954.

The following Table shows in detail the number of deaths, male and female, and the causes of death in the district during the year. Compared with the Table for the preceding year, an increase in the number of deaths from Coronary Disease, Angina and other Heart Diseases, Cancer and Tuberculosis is recorded.

Cause of Death.	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Tuberculosis (respiratory) ...	7	5	12
(non-respiratory)	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease ...	1	1	2
Meningococcal Infections...	—	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	2	2
Cancer ...	21	30	51
Leukaemia ...	1	—	1
Diabetes ...	2	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	28	20	48
Coronary Disease, Angina	29	29	58
Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	6	9
Other heart disease ...	16	21	37
Other circulatory disease ..	10	12	22
Pneumonia ...	12	5	17
Bronchitis ...	11	4	15
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	2	5	7
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	8	—	8
Congenital Malformations ...	3	1	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	27	25	52
Accidents ...	5	5	10
Suicide ...	3	2	5
Totals ...	193	183	376

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service is operated under the direction of the Durham County Council. All telephone calls or other messages in respect to the service of an ambulance are now directed to East Herrington 3137, which is the ambulance station at Devon Street, New Herrington, covering the parishes of Ryhope, Silksworth and Tunstall, Ford, Offerton and the Herringtons, or Hebburn 32157, which is the ambulance station at 1, St. John's Avenue, Hebburn, covering the parish of Hylton.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examination of sputa, faeces and Throat swabs are now undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Hylton Road, Sunderland, which is under the direction of P. B. Crone, M.D., Dip., Bact. This service has proved itself to be a great asset to busy practitioners in our own and nearby districts. According to reports received by the Medical Officer of Health, the following specimens were submitted for examination :—

Bacteriological Examinations for the year 1954 :—

For Organisms of the Enteric, Dysentery & Food Poisoning Groups.

Positive 20	Negative 33
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For Diphtheria.

Positive —	Negative 1
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Bacteriological Examination of Water.

Water from disused well at Castletown examined for organisms of enteric group	Negative
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PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

During the year, 575 cases of infectious disease, including all forms of Tuberculosis, were notified as compared with 624 cases for the previous year and 721 cases in 1952.

Scarlet Fever.

The notification of this disease amounted to 10 cases, a considerable decrease over last year's figure which was 61 cases. The disease was a very mild type and caused no anxiety.

Diphtheria.

There were no notifications of Diphtheria throughout the year 1954.

Poliomyelitis.

Two cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were notified in the area during the year. Both were of the paralytic type and were admitted to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Hylton Road, Sunderland, and on discharge attended for treatment at the Monkwearmouth and Southwick Hospital, Outpatients Department.

Measles.

Cases of Measles notified during the year amounted to 280, a decrease of 53 cases over the preceding year. Measles is a disease which shows periodic increase, cycles every three or five years. Very few children escape infection.

The appended Table sets out in detail the notification of infectious disease during the year 1954, together with the ages at which the disease occurred and the incidence in each of the respective parishes; the number of cases treated at infectious diseases hospitals is also shown.

TUBERCULOSIS

<i>Age Periods.</i>	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non- Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non- Pulmonary</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ... ..	...	..	...	.	...	...	...	...
1	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 ... ..	...	...	1	1	...	..	...	...
10 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	1	3	...	1	...	..	...	...
25 ... ..	...	8	...	...	...	1	...	...
35	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
45	3	2	...	...	2	2	...	..
55 ... ..	...	..	...	..	3	...	...	...
65 & over	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals ..	7	13	1	2	7	5	...	...

It has not been necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

No action has been taken under Section 72 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which relates to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Central Kitchens.

The Education Authority's central kitchens have again been supervised throughout the year. Only occasionally was it necessary to make recommendations with regard to the interior decoration, etc.

Disinfection of Premises.

Disinfection of premises and bedding has been carried out by your staff on the removal of cases of infectious

disease, and on the termination of the period of isolation if the patient has been isolated at home. Disinfections were also carried out at houses where the death or removal of a person suffering from Tuberculosis had occurred.

WATER SUPPLIES

As before, the district was supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Board. Bacteriological Examinations were carried out by the owners, the examinations being necessary in case any water-borne disease had been brought into the district.

At the Herringtons a small number of houses are still supplied by the National Coal Board from their pumping station situated in Silksworth Lane. This supply was satisfactory.

At Offerton, the supply is taken from a well situated in a field to the north-west of the village. The water is lifted from the well by a pump which is driven by a windmill, and the water is stored in iron storage tanks situated near Offerton Hall. From thence it is led to the various houses in the village. This supply was satisfactory.

The only area, apart from some scattered farms) not provided with a piped water supply is that of Offerton.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE YEAR 1954, TOGETHER WITH THE AGES AT WHICH THE DISEASE OCCURRED AND THE INCIDENCE IN EACH OF THE RESPECTIVE PARISHES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED										PARISHES									
	At all Ages.										Ford	Herringtons	Hylton	Offerton	Ryhope	Silksworth	Tunstall	Total cases removed to Hospital.		
	0 - 1 year	1 - 2 years	2 - 3 years	3 - 4 years	4 - 5 years	5 - 10 years	10 - 15 years	15 - 25 years	25 - 35 years	35 - 45 years	45 - 65 years	65 and over								
Scarlet Fever	41	82	85	78	79	146	2	11	11	7	24	12	58	1	57	1	318	59	84	14
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	1	..	3	1	4	..	4	8	1	5	1	3	..	1	..	5	2	3	..
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Erysipelas ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	4	..	..	1
Pneumonia	2	7	..	3	..	4	2	3	1	4	16	11	1	..	1	..	15	13	23	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Whooping Cough	25	31	43	34	24	41	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	1	42	..	129	6	19	3
Measles	13	41	42	37	54	92	..	..	..	..	1	..	48	..	11	..	154	35	32	..
Paratyphoid Fever	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Meningococcal Infections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Typhoid Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
TOTALS	578	82	85	78	79	146	2	11	11	7	24	12	58	1	57	1	318	59	84	14

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

PUBLIC CLEANSING — COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE

Refuse Collection.

Regular collections of house refuse were again maintained during the year. In spite of the fact that there were prolonged spells of severe frost, together with a fair amount of time lost due to sickness among the refuse collectors, no great difficulties were experienced with the result that, generally speaking, the work flowed smoothly and was kept up to schedule.

Six vehicles, comprising four Karrier Bantam (7 cub. yd. capacity) and two Bedfords (7 cub yd. capacity) were again regularly employed in carrying out the work, and the refuse collection staff consisted of six drivers and seventeen loaders.

During the year, 632,120 dustbins holding 13,704 tons of refuse were dealt with; this represents a weekly collection and disposal of approximately 265 tons.

The annual cost of Refuse Collection work for the financial year ending 31st March, 1955, was £13,170 14s. 1d. which is the equivalent of 19s. 3d. per ton of refuse collected.

The cost of repairs and renewals to vehicles (including tyres) amounted to £317 2s. 10d.

Refuse Disposal.

The refuse from the parishes of Ryhope, Silksworth and Tunstall (representing approximately 75% of the district's total refuse) was disposed of at the new tip which is situated in a central part of Ryhope, north of Ryhope Street and east of the old slum clearance area of Burdon Street.

During the year 10,278 tons of refuse were deposited on this tip by means of "Controlled Tipping," the remainder of the refuse collected in the district was disposed of by a modified form of control.

The cost of disposal amounted to £1077 19s., the equivalent of 1s. 8d. per ton.

Salvage.

Waste Paper collections continued to be maintained during the year by means of trailers attached to the refuse collection vehicles. The price per ton received for waste paper continued to be rather low, i.e. £6 10s. per ton, but towards the end of the year it was obvious that the mills were again in urgent need of waste paper with the result that the price received for it showed a tendency to increase.

The total collection for the year was about 20 tons less than the previous year, and represented approximately a 2d. rate.

The following Table shows the amount of waste paper collected each month and the corresponding revenue which was received.

Waste Paper Collections, 1954.

Month.			Quantity in Tons Cwts. Qrs.			Amount of Revenue £ s d		
January	...	...	12	6	2	96	18	9
February	...	...	7	5	0	58	13	0
March	...	...	9	1	2	72	8	6
April	...	...	12	16	0	99	12	9
May	...	...	7	10	0	58	19	9
June	...	...	11	0	0	87	11	6
July	...	...	12	12	0	101	1	6
August	...	...	8	3	2	64	6	0
September	...	...	8	1	0	63	1	0
October	...	...	7	5	2	58	14	0
November	...	...	8	9	0	67	0	0
December	...	...	11	6	0	89	8	6
Total Amount ...			115	16	0	£917	15	3

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The appended summary "TABLE A" sets out the number and the nature of inspections made as to nuisances and sanitary defects, contraventions of Bye-laws, etc., during the year, together with the number of notices served to remedy such defects.

It will be seen from the summary that the bulk of the notices served were of an informal character and include letters and verbal intimations.

Closest Accommodation.

During the year forty-five privies were demolished at Ryhope, following upon the vacation of the corresponding dwelling-houses. It is very pleasing to be able to report this progress, and if this is maintained we should soon see the last of these in this concentrated portion of the district. When these privies are eliminated it will, to my mind, constitute one of the largest single contributions to the improvement of public health in this parish.

The total number of privies existing in the district at the end of the year was 131, as detailed herewith. It will be seen of this total, 126 are attached to houses which are either in Clearance Areas or, alternatively, conversions are unlikely because of the lack of sewerage facilities.

District in which situated.	No. of existing Privies.	In probable Clearance Areas, or Conversions otherwise not likely.	Possible Conversions
RYHOPE—			
Ryhope Street	52	52	—
Miscellaneous	6	5	1
SILKSWORTH—			
Farms Cottages	18	16	2
Village School	4	4	—
Hall Lodge and Cottages	9	9	—
HERRINGTON—			
Farms and Cottages ..	7	5	2
OFFERTON & COXGREEN—			
Farms and Cottages ..	11	11	—
Miscellaneous	9	9	—
HYLTON—			
Farms and Cottages ..	15	15	—
TOTAL	131	126	5

Complaints Received.

During the year 1954, 901 complaints or requests were received and attended to relating to matters briefly summarised as follows :—

Verminous and dirty premises	44
Choked drains	41
Water supply (defective fittings) ..	3
Defective drains	5
Drain tests	191
Defective waste pipes	3
Defective W.C.s, privies, etc. ..	13
Defective dustbins	340
General Housing Defects	86
Overcrowding	1
Rodent infestations (including mice) ..	68
Offensive smells	11
Requests to remove refuse	3
Houses and bedding to disinfect ..	28
Offensive accumulations	3
Requests to inspect food	25
Drain inspections	20
Miscellaneous	16
Total	901

TABLE A—SUMMARY—SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.
INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES SERVED 1954.

	No. of inspections during the year.	No. of defects or contra- ventions of Byelaws.	No. of Informal Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter.	No. of Statutory Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter.	Legal Proceedings.
HOUSING—							
Structural Defects	717	61	61	22	39	39	...
Defective Food-store ...		6	6	2	4	4	...
Dampness ...		29	29	5	24	24	...
Overcrowding ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
NUISANCES—							
Dirty or verminous premises ...	57	44	44	44	...	...	...
Choked drains ...	482	407	407	405	2	2	...
Various ...	21	16	16	16	...	...	...
Offensive Accumulations ...	22	17	17	17	...	...	...
WATER SUPPLY—							
Insufficient (defective fittings) ...	17	10	10	9	1	1	...
Unsatisfactory ...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...
DRAINAGE—							
Insufficient ...	20	12	12	12	...	...	...
Defective ...	16	10	10	10	...	...	...
New drains testing, etc. ...	191	...	...	...	...	...	...
New drains provided	5889 yds. of	4in. drain	...	...	...	...	...
SANITARY							
CONVENIENCES—							
Insufficient ...	28	15	15	6	9	9	...
Insanitary ashpits, and dustbins ...	368	323	323	280	43	43	...
New W.C. basins ...	7	3	3	2	1	1	...
Shops and Stores ...	63	7	7	7	...	...	...
Dairies Milkshops	7	1	1	1	...	...	...
Slaughterhouses ..	304	25	25	25	...	...	...
Offensive Trades ...	68	6	6	6	...	...	...
Fruit Store ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Manufacturing Premises ...	44	6	6	6	...	...	...
Bakehouses ...	20	2	2	2	...	...	...
Snack Bars ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rat Infestations ...	213	93	93	93	...	...	...
Schools ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Factories ...	6	1	1	1	...	...	...
Fried Fish Shops ...	31	4	4	4	...	...	...
Ice-cream Premises	42	2	2	2	...	...	...
Piggeries ...	8	1	1	1	...	...	...
Wet Fish Shops ...	10	2	2	2	...	...	...
	2776	1104	1104	981	123	123	—

The following summary shows the main types of work done or improvements effected as the result of inspections made and subsequent action taken :—

SUMMARY OF WORKS EFFECTED, 1954

Housing Defects.

Repairs to roofs and spouts	...	...	...	35
„ walls and pointing	...	...	...	13
„ chimneys, firegrates, ovens	...	...	...	17
„ windows and sash cords	...	...	...	17
„ floors, stairs, doors and woodwork	...	...	...	33
„ wash-houses, coppers and furnaces	...	...	...	3
„ wall and ceiling plaster	...	...	...	19
„ yard and outhouses	...	...	...	10
„ food stores	...	...	...	8
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	30

Nuisances.

Dirty and verminous premises cleansed and disinfested	...	...	...	44
Obstructed drains cleared	...	...	...	407
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	14

Water Supply.

Burst pipes and defective taps repaired	...	...	...	10
Separate internal supplies provided	...	...	...	2

Drainage.

Wash-up sinks provided	...	...	...	2
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	7
Sink waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	2
Yards paved or repaired	...	...	...	8

Sanitary Conveniences.

Privy ashpits abolished...	...	...	...	45
W.C.s provided	...	...	...	3
W.C.s repaired	...	...	...	18
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	325
Privies repaired	...	...	...	1

Public Conveniences.

Routine inspections have been made during the year to all public conveniences in the district, with a view to ascertaining the existence of nuisances which may arise

from time to time. The conveniences are thoroughly cleansed each day (including Sundays) by workmen on the staff of the Health Department.

Factories.

The following tables in the form required by the Home Office show the inspections made to factories with mechanical power, factories without mechanical power, and other premises, together with defects found and remedied during the year.

1. INSPECTION FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

PREMISES (1)	NUMBER OF		
	<i>Inspections</i> (2)	<i>Written Notices</i> (3)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i> (4)
Factories with mechanical power	2	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	4	1	—
Other Premises under the Act including works buildings and engineering construction but not including outworkers premises ...	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	1	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS (1)	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	—	—

Smoke Abatement.

During the year no complaints were received in the department, neither was any action necessary, relating to the above matter. The Ryhope Colliery Spoil Heap is, of course, still in existence, and continues to burn and emit smoke into the atmosphere.

The National Coal Board continues to control the combustion by means of fine water sprays directed upon the burning portions of the spoil heap.

This spoil heap was inspected upon several occasions by the Ministry of Health's Alkali Works, etc., inspector.

Swimming Baths.

There are no such baths in the area, either public or privately owned.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the year three complaints were received in respect to bed bug infestations, all being in Council houses.

Vigorous efforts are still being made by this department for the complete eradication of bed bugs. This can only be successful with the full co-operation of the tenants.

Both owners and occupiers are encouraged to seek advice and assistance from the department. They themselves are made responsible for the stripping of walls, removal of skirting moulds, picture rails, etc.; this is followed up by the spraying of the rooms with a reliable insecticide by a Health Department employee.

During the year Zaldecide containing D.D.T. was used for spraying.

Drainage.

A considerable amount of work has again been incurred in the Health Department during the year by the Council's post war building programme.

The various housing schemes in progress throughout the district have claimed the time of the inspectors as soon as respective drainage systems became ready for inspection. In addition to this, much time is devoted to the arrangement, inspection and testing of drains belonging to private owners.

All main and branch drains were tested by means of the "Water Test" in order to verify that they were sound and watertight.

Throughout the year, 5,889 yards of 4in. drain were tested, involving some 191 visits.

Rodent Control.

During the year two treatments were undertaken and completed on each set of sewers within the district in addition to several treatments on each of the three refuse tips in the area. None of the refuse tips now bear the mark of a major infestation.

Surveys have been made at various times to determine what degree of infestation exists particularly in the vicinity of business premises, and where such premises were infested, a charge, sufficient to cover normal expenses, was made against the owner.

Dwelling-houses are treated free of charge, and the whole work throughout the year was effected by a trained rodent operative acting under the supervision of the sanitary inspectors. The methods used were those prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Rodent Division).

TYPE OF PROPERTY.

	Local Authority	Dwelling- Houses	Agri- cultural	All other (Including Business & Industrial)	Total
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's area.	12	8,033	33	131	8,209
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise.	(a) —	63	—	11	74
	(b) 10	9	—	120	139
3. Number of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats.	Major 3	—	—	—	3
	Minor 7	47	—	7	61
4. Number of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice.	—	25	—	4	29
5. Number of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the Local Authority.	10	72	—	11	93

Housing.

During the year 1954, concentrated attention was focussed upon general housing conditions throughout the country, with a resultant spate of new legislation and Official Circulars giving advice to Local Authorities how best to tackle the problems confronting them.

Not the least important of these was Circular No. 55/54 which dealt with (a) Proposals for dealing with Slums, (b) reference to the new standard of fitness for human habitation in respect to the enforcement of essential repairs, and (c) Improvement Grants.

In respect to the proposals for dealing with slums, the Minister has directed local authorities to submit to him, not later than 30th August, 1955, their proposals for dealing, in one way or another, with the houses in their area which appear to them to be unfit for human habitation and liable to demolition.

It is pleasing to be able to report in this connection, that this Council have resolved, so far as lies within

their power, to rid their district of all slum property within five years.

At the time of the Council's resolution it was estimated that in the whole of the district there were 425 houses, accommodating 507 families, requiring to be dealt with either in slum clearance areas or as individual houses.

Considerable progress was made during the year in a concentrated area in the Parish of Ford, consisting of 89 houses and 99 families, and up to the end of the year 69 houses had been dealt with and 78 families—comprising 184 persons—had been rehoused.

In addition to these, considerable progress had been made in a Clearance Area in the parish of Ryhope which was confirmed in 1938. A total of 38 families comprising 123 persons have been rehoused from this area during the year.

No attempt can be made at present to carry out any large-scale efforts of re-conditioning the large number of sub-standard houses in the district; in any case, before this can be done some additional staff will be necessary.

In respect to Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, 22 applications were received from owners asking for grants towards the costs involved in the necessary improvement of their respective dwelling-houses. Up to the end of the year 5 applications had been approved by the Council.

The new Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which came into operation on the 30th August, 1954, did not bring with it the anticipated rush from property owners to serve notices upon tenants for rent increases. Up to the end of the year only five applications were received from tenants for Certificates of Disrepair.

Houses erected during the year :—

	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total
(a) By Local Authority ...	286	—)	
(b) By other Bodies or Per-		)	299
sons ...	—	19)	

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) | 877 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 1,656 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | Nil. |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | Nil. |
| (3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 89 |
| (4) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 864 |

2. Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers	754
---	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring repairs | Nil. |
|--|------|

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
- | | |
|---|--------|
| (a) By owners | Nil.) |
| (b) By Local Authority in de-
fault of Owners | Nil.) |

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 123
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after the service of formal notices:—
- | | |
|---|--------|
| (a) By Owners | 123) |
| (b) By Local Authority in de-
fault of Owners | Nil.) |

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil.

(d) Proceedings under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 :—

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 69
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The inspection and supervision of the usual commodities of food intended for human consumption has again received the keen attention of the Department during the year. A large proportion of the normal available time is devoted to this very important branch of the work.

It involves the inspection of all meat, both home-killed and imported, the inspection of all doubtful canned foods offered for sale, the supervision of the manufacture and sale of ice-cream, supervising the premises occupied by milk distributors and the inspection of all premises in which foods are manufactured or stored for the purpose of sale.

Milk Supply.

It still remains the responsibility of local authorities to see that all milk, in their respective districts, is distributed in a hygienic manner.

All retailers in the district now deliver milk in stoppered bottles only.

The following number were on the register of licensed dealers at the end of 1954 :—

Number licensed to retail	Pasteurised Milk	.....	12		
„	„	„	Pasteurised Tuber-		
„	„	„	culin Tested Milk	.....	7
„	„	„	Tuberculin Tested Milk	4	
„	„	„	Sterilised Milk	.....	26
Number of Supplementary Licences issued			.....	11	

Ice-Cream.

There are only three premises in the Council's area upon which this commodity of food is manufactured for sale, but there are fourteen other premises registered as being satisfactory for the storage and sale only.

All premises are visited regularly in order to ascertain

that the ice-cream is manufactured, stored and sold under hygienic conditions, and that all utensils are sterilised and kept free from contamination.

During the year regular samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. The total number of samples taken was 85, and the reports received showed the following results :—

No. of Samples.	Grade.
81	1
3	2
1	3
Nil	4

Precautions against Contamination of Food.

All premises in which food is manufactured, stored or sold for human consumption have again been regularly inspected during the year. Experience has shown that there is no real substitute for systematic inspection of such premises, and although various food traders have, in general, faced up well to their responsibilities, there still remains the necessity for regular inspection in order to maintain a reasonably high standard of food hygiene upon the premises.

During the year 1954, 134 visits were made to all premises in which food was manufactured, stored or sold, and as a result of such inspections the following works were effected :—

Water supply provided	6
Wash-hand basins installed	6
Gas or electric water heaters installed	3
Walls re-decorated	3
Ceilings re-decorated	2
New drains laid	4
Premises cleansed	3
Additional W.C.s provided	4
W.C.s repaired	3

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The usual inspection of all carcasses was again maintained during the year, on the principle that the essence of efficient meat inspection in the matter of ensuring a safe meat supply to the public, is that it should be regular and carried out as a matter of routine. In order to make this possible, a large proportion of the normal available time is devoted to this important branch of the work of the department.

The change over from Control to De-Control, which took place in July, is now past history; but it is recalled that the few weeks prior, and the weeks following the change, brought with them some moments of anxiety and confusion.

The responsibility for making available adequate slaughtering facilities within the district was laid upon the Council.

Fortunately, the Ryhope Co-operative Society Slaughter-house had been in use as the Government Slaughterhouse since 1939, and adequate facilities were available there to satisfy the whole need of our administrative area.

By mutual arrangement with the Ryhope Co-operative Society, the premises were made available to those butchers in the area who desired the use thereof, on such terms and conditions as agreed between the parties concerned.

It was always understood by all concerned, that failing the reaching of an amicable agreement, the District Council would have no alternative but to acquire the Ryhope Slaughterhouse by requisition, in order to make available adequate slaughtering facilities.

Under the above arrangements, things proceeded quite satisfactorily and without incident.

The expiration of Control saw a considerable reduction in the number of animals slaughtered at Ryhope, and altogether there were over 3,000 less than the num-

ber slaughtered during 1953.

During the year no evidence of “*Cysticercus Bovis*” was found to be present in any of the carcasses examined.

All animals slaughtered are inspected before being exposed for sale, and no carcass or organs allowed to leave the slaughterhouse without examination.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year 1954 was 11,105, and a total of 304 visits were made to the slaughterhouse for this purpose.

The total number of animals slaughtered and inspected is set out below :—

MONTH			Cattle Exclu- ding Cows	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
January	...	...	93	3	4	545	206	851
February	...	...	114	11	8	699	279	1111
March	...	...	139	4	14	664	282	1103
April	...	...	197	16	6	807	515	1541
May and June	...	...	399	29	9	1024	866	2307
July	...	...	132	9	—	277	61	479
August	...	...	103	2	—	231	31	367
September	...	...	133	6	3	511	160	813
October	...	...	116	2	—	368	183	669
November	...	...	105	2	—	323	297	727
December	...	...	138	1	2	470	526	1137
TOTALS			1649	85	46	5919	3406	11,105

The number of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year 1954 is shown herewith.

	Cattle Exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed if known ...	1,649	85	46	5,919	3406
Number inspected	1,649	85	46	5,919	3406
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	...	1	...	11	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	781	19	...	14	159
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.	47.41%	23.5 %	...	4%	4.9%
TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	...	...	...	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	142	28	...	...	59
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.7%	33%	...	...	2%

As a result of the inspections at the Slaughterhouse, various diseased or unsound conditions were discovered as detailed in the following tables.

The amount of Tuberculosis is dealt with in TABLE 1 and other diseased or unsound conditions in TABLE 2.

TABLE 1.
TUBERCULOSIS IN FOOD ANIMALS

PORTION DEALT WITH.	In Bovines		In Pigs	
	Number Con- demned	Weight.	Number Con- demned.	Weight.
MEAT		Stones		Stones
Entire c'case & all organs	2	90 $\frac{3}{4}$	5	40
Forequarters (Portions),	4	49	...	...
Hindquarters	4	44	...	...
Skirts	20	5	...	...
Total Weight of Meat ...	...	188 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	40
OFFALS		Stones		Stones
Heads	51	116	55	56
Sets of Lungs	107	84	4	1
Livers	17	16	4	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Stomachs	3	6	...	...
Intestines	3	1	...	...
Mesenteries	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...
Hearts	26	7	...	...
Total Weight of Offal ...	...	232 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	58 $\frac{1}{2}$

TABLE 2.
OTHER DISEASED OR UNSOUND CONDITIONS IN FOOD ANIMALS

Diseased or Unsound Conditions.	Meat Condemned.			Edible Offals Condemned.					
	No. of Whole Car-cases.	Parts of Carcases	Wght	Sets of Lungs	Livers.	Half-Livers.	Hearts.	Stomachs & Intestines.	
CATTLE.			Stones						
Abscesses ...		Skirts ... 2	$\frac{1}{2}$	...	56	...	...	...
Cirrhosis ...				...	186	...	...	...
Flukes ...				...	...	366	...	...
Pleurisy ...				26	...	...	...	...
Pericarditis ...				...	...	...	3	...	
Peritonitis ...				...	1	...	...	...
Bruising ...		Ptns. of Beef 7	65	...	...	...	...	...
General Fever ...	1	...	$25\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...
Bone-Taint ...	...	Ptn. of Beef 1	2	...	...	...	...	...
Total weight of Beef and No. of Offals ...			$93\frac{1}{4}$	26	243	366	3	...	
SHEEP & LAMBS									
Moribund ...	2	...	$7\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...
Abscesses ...	1	...	5	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	Ptns. of Mtn. 3	$4\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...
Worried by Dogs	8		$56\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...
Total Weight of Mutton ...			73	...	...	...	...	...
PIGS									
Fevered ...	1	...	$18\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...
Abscess ...	...	Ptns. of Pork 5	$7\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...
Inflammation ...	...	Ptns. of Pork 6	$6\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis ...	...	...	...	...	102	...	...	...
Pleurisy ...	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	...
Pericarditis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	
Bruised ...	...	Ptns. of Pork 3	$4\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...
Pyaemia ...	2	...	31	...	...	...	...	...
Moribund ...	1	...	$9\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...
Decomposition ...	1	...	$6\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...
Emaciation ...	1	...	$3\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...
Urticaria ...	...	Skin and Fat	2	...	...	...	...	...
Total Wt. of Pork & No. of Offals		...	$89\frac{1}{2}$	30	102	...	3	...	

Total weight of home-killed meat and offals condemned on account of Tuberculosis and Other Diseased or Unsound Conditions:—

Beef	283 $\frac{1}{4}$ stones	Beef Offals	583 stones
Mutton	73 „	Mutton „	— „
Pork	148 $\frac{1}{2}$ „	Pork „	86 „
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	504 $\frac{3}{4}$ stones		669 stones

1,173 $\frac{3}{4}$ stones (7 tons, 6 cwts., 3 qrs.)

The following foodstuffs were also found to be unfit for human consumption :—

430 tins	Tomatoes	93 tins	Peas
15 „	Peaches	123 „	Shoulder Ham
157 „	Evaporated Milk	1 „	Pigs' Tongues
24 „	Steak	13 „	Rabbit
98 „	Beans	64 „	Plums
8 „	Tongue	8 „	Gooseberries
41 „	Pork Luncheon Meat	1 „	Corned Mutton
21 „	Pork in Juice	10 „	Steak Pudding
2 „	Pork Sausage	25 „	Whole Chicken
3 „	Crawfish	31 „	Pears
15 „	Minced Beef Loaf	38 „	Corned Beef
68 „	Beans in Tomato	20 „	Cherries
48 „	Pineapple	72 „	Condensed Milk
10 „	Tomato Juice	6 „	Pease Pudding
11 „	Raspberries	13 „	Grapes
15 „	Soup	26 „	Prunes
3 „	Figs in Syrup	12 „	Oranges
44 „	Apricots	5 „	Blackberries
8 „	Grapefruit	6 „	Strawberries
3 „	Jellied Veal	12 „	Crab
1 „	Pressed Beef	30 „	Baked Beans
1 „	Veal & Ham Paste	16 „	Salmon
1 „	Steak & Veg.	5 „	Sardines
4 „	Irish Stew	2 „	Pilchards
1 „	Tuna Fish	1 „	Lobster
9 „	Chopped Pork	2 „	Herrings
4 „	Cream	1 „	Stewed Mutton
2 jars	Pickles	17 jars	Salad Cream
8 „	Bilberries	4 „	Gooseberries
1 „	Chicken	8 pkts.	Cheese
16 btles.	Grapefruit	54 „	Cheese Spread
27 „	Lemon	7 „	Bran Flakes
19 „	Orange	45 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Pork Sausage
67 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Cheese	45 „	Farinoca
8 $\frac{1}{4}$ „	Veal	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ „	Pressed Beef
16 „	Cooked Ham	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ „	Tongue
20 „	Bacon	4 „	Corned Beef

Offensive Trades.

The only offensive trade carried on in the area is that of tripe boiling.

The premises upon which this trade is performed are under the control of the Ryhope & Silksworth Industrial & Provident Society Ltd., and are attached to their Slaughter-house.

The regular inspection of the premises has been maintained during the year, involving 68 visits.

I remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MATTHEW B. H. CHURCHILL, M.S.I.A.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

